

1 1. A method for providing treatment to a patient having an
2 ailment, said method including the recordation of patient data and payment
3 to a treating physician, said method comprising the steps of:
4 providing a means for recording said patient data within a
5 treating physician's facility;
6 providing a central processing means located separate from said
7 recording means;
8 providing a means for communicating said patient data from said
9 facility to said central processing means;
10 acquiring first quality of life and economic data relating to said
11 patient;
12 recording said first quality of life and economic data using said
13 recording means;
14 receiving a range of treatments;
15 treating said patient after said step of recording said first
16 quality of life and said economic data;
17 acquiring second quality of life and economic data relating to
18 said patient after said step of treating said patient; and
19 adjusting said range of treatments by utilizing said quality of
20 life and said economic data to maximize said patient's quality of life and
21 economic conditions after treatment.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 obtaining background information about said patient including
3 demographics and a diagnosis of said patient's ailment;
4 classifying said patient's ailment utilizing a standardized
5 classification system;
6 staging said patient's ailment utilizing a standardized staging
7 system;
8 acquiring physics, dosimetry and prescription data about said
9 patient;

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10 recording said classification and said staging information; and
11 recording said physics, dosimetry and prescription information.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of obtaining said
2 background information and said step of staging said patient's ailment both
3 occur prior to said step of acquiring said first quality of life and
4 economic data.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 obtaining a range of preferred treatments for treating said
3 patient from a procedure based manual, said step of obtaining said range of
4 preferred treatments occurring after said step of acquiring said first
5 quality of life and economic data and before said step of acquiring said
6 second quality of life and economic data.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein said step of treating said
2 patient utilizes a treatment plan within said range of preferred treatments
3 for treating said patient from said procedure based manual.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:
2 obtaining a time period for completing said treatment plan from
3 said procedure based manual prior to said step of treating said patient; and
4 wherein said step of making payment to said physician for
5 providing said treatment occurs only if said treatment is completed within
6 said prescribed time period.

1 7. The method of claim 4 wherein said step of treating said
2 patient utilizes a treatment plan not within said range of preferred
3 treatments for treating said patient from said procedure based manual.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of
2 obtaining and recording physical outcome information after said step of
3 treating said patient.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:
2 obtaining a range of preferred treatments for treating said
3 patient from a procedure based manual, said step of obtaining said range of

preferred treatments occurring after said step of acquiring said first quality of life and economic data and before said step of acquiring said second quality of life and economic data.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of modifying said procedure based manual utilizing said first and said second quality of life and economic data and said physical outcome information to optimize the quality said second quality of life and economic data.

11. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of obtaining and recording physical outcome information after said step of treating said patient.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:
obtaining a range of preferred treatments for treating said
patient from a procedure based manual, said step of obtaining said range of
preferred treatments occurring after said step of acquiring said first
quality of life and economic data and before said step of acquiring said
second quality of life and economic data.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of modifying said procedure based manual utilizing said first and said second quality of life and economic data and said physical outcome information to optimize the quality of said second quality of life and economic data.

14. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
submitting said treatment not within said range of preferred
treatments for review by a review board;

reviewing initially said treatment not within said range or treatments; and

deciding whether to approve said treating physician's decision to utilize said treatment not within said range of preferred treatments and to make payment to said physician therefor.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of providing a secondary review procedure for reviewing said step of deciding whether to approve said treatment not within said range.

16. A system for providing healthcare to a patient undergoing a treatment selected from a range of treatments, comprising:

- a local processing means for recording patient data within a treating physician's facility;
- a central processing means located separate from said local processing means;
- means for communicating said patient data from said local processing means to said central processing means;
- means for recording first quality of life and economic data relating to said patient;
- means for recording second quality of life and economic data relating to said patient; and
- means for reviewing said first and second quality of life and economic data and adjusting said range of treatments by utilizing said first and second quality of life and said economic data to maximize said patient's quality of life and economic conditions after treatment.

17. The system of claim 16 further comprising:

- means for recording physics, dosimetry and prescription information relating to said patient;
- means for recording ailment staging information; and
- means for recording ailment classification information.

18. The system of claim 17 further comprising a procedure based manual for providing a range of preferred treatments for treating said patient.

19. The system of claim 18 further comprising means for determining whether said treatment from said procedure based manual has been completed within a predetermined amount of time.

20. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of making payment to said physician for providing treatment upon completion of said first and said second steps of acquiring said quality of life and economic data.